

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the concurrently filed Terminal Disclaimer are respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 24, 29-32 and 53 are pending in the application, with Claim 24 being the only independent claim. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 23, 24, 29-32 and 53 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claims 1-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,989 (Yano et al.); Claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,659,601 (Goto et al. '601); Claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,517,199 (Tomioka et al. '199); Claims 1-37 of U.S. Patent No. 6,719,420 (Tomioka et al. '420); Claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,729,718 (Goto et al. '718); Claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,821,328 (Tomioka et al. '328); and Claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,746,114 (Takahashi et al.). Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and solely to expedite issuance, Applicants are submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. Applicants submit that the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer obviates the double patenting rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection are requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 24. Dependent Claims 23, 29-32 and 53 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 24. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

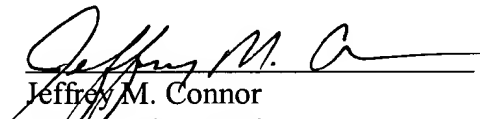
Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's submit herewith a check in the amount of \$130.00 pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.321 and 1.20(d). The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205 should any other fees be deemed necessary.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey M. Connor
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 57,409

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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